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ALDRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of

Public Health Conditions

of the

Aldridge Urban District

For the Year Ending 31st December 1957

by

V. E. MILNE,

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

and

U. BOOCOCK,

M.A.P.H.I.

Chief Public Health Inspector.



STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

V. E. MILNE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Part-Time Officer.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

U. BOOCOCK, M.A.P.H.I.

Whole-Time Officer.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS:

K. B. WILLIAMS, M.A.P.H.I.

R. J. MOORE, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

CLERK:

MISS B. M. MOORE.

TO THE ALDRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting my Thirty-third Annual Report on the Public Health Conditions of the Aldridge Urban District for the year ending 31st December, 1957, in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 1/58 of the 13th January, 1958.

AREA.

The area of the District is 9,284 acres.

POPULATION.

The estimated home population at mid-summer 1957 was 39,100 (an increase of 3,170 from the previous year). This gives a population of 4.21 per acre.

INHABITED HOUSES.

The number of inhabited houses, according to rate books, at 31/12/57 was 11,301, an increase of 1,037 from last year.

RATEABLE VALUE.

The Rateable Value was £348,293 and the sum represented by a 1d. Rate was £1,337 for the year 1957-58.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are: Brickmaking, mining, agricultural, and heavy industries are now well established. The district is also largely residential.

VITAL STATISTICS.

These statistics relate to the net births and deaths, after correction for inward and outward transfers, as furnished by the Registrar General:

Live Births:

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Legitimate	375	383	758
Illegitimate	15	3	18
	<u>390</u>	<u>386</u>	<u>776</u>

Of these 776 births, 395 were registered locally, the remaining 381 being transferred into the district from outside areas. Approximately 50.9 per cent of the births were, therefore, registered locally, which is less than the percentage for last year (viz., 57.7).

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

The live birth rate per 1,000 of the population was 19.84 and the corrected live birth rate 18.05 - the latter can be compared with the birth rate for the whole of England and Wales, which was 16.1 for 1957.

For 1956 the crude and corrected live birth rates were 18.09 and 17.00 respectively.

It should be noted that no birth took place in St. Margaret's Hospital, Gt. Barr (resident population approximately 1,450). Excluding the Hospital, the crude birth rate was 20.61 and the corrected birth rate 19.02.

Illegitimate Birth Rate - per 1,000 live births was 23.0.

Still Birth Rate - 18 still births (males 8 and females 10) were registered, and the rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births was 22.67 (or 0.46 per 1,000 of the population). The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 22.4. The still birth rate for 1956 was 26.15.

Death Rate - 237 deaths (males 136, females 101).

The crude death rate was 6.06 and the corrected death rate 9.99 per 1,000 of the population - the latter can be compared with the death rate for the whole of England and Wales, which was 11.50.

The Area Comparability Factors (A.C.F.'s) - used for calculating the corrected birth and death rates have been amended and are now 0.91 and 1.65 respectively as compared with 0.89 and 1.61. This means a further lowering of the crude birth rate and an increase of the crude death rate, and makes an approximate allowance for the way in which sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales as a whole.

When so corrected, the birth and death rates are comparable with the crude rates for England and Wales, or with corresponding corrected rates for any other area.

The A.C.F.'s have, no doubt, been amended this year, because the rapid increase in the population in recent years has affected its composition by sex and age groups.

In addition the death rate A.C.F. is now adjusted specifically to take account of any "residential institutions" in each area.

Seventy-nine deaths were transferred into the district and five were transferred out.

Infantile Death Rate - 13 infants under one year of age died (of these, 11 were under four weeks of age), giving an Infantile Death Rate of 16.75 per 1,000 live births.

The Infantile Death Rate (all causes) for the whole of England and Wales was 23.0 per 1,000 Live Births, the lowest ever recorded in this country.

No illegitimate infant died under one year of age.

No death resulted from Pregnancy, Childbirth or Abortion.

Cancer etc. - 29 deaths resulted from cancer and included in these were 3 deaths due to cancer of the lung and/or bronchus.

Since January 1955, details of persons normally resident in the Alridge Urban District who die of cancer (all kinds) are being forwarded monthly to the County Medical Officer of Health.

No death was due to Diphtheria, and 7 resulted from Pneumonia.

Laboratory Facilities - The Public Health Laboratory Service (Stafford) supplies excellent facilities for the examination of swabs, specimens of sputa, blood etc.,

During the year reports on 4 swabs from throats etc., and 5 specimens of faeces were received, all of which were negative. Three specimens of sputum were examined for tubercle bacilli, and all were negative.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

The following services are provided by the Staffordshire County Council as the Local Health Authority:

Ambulance Service	Ante-Natal Clinics
Home Help Service	Infant Welfare Centres
Diphtheria Immunisation (Private Practitioners, and at Infant Welfare Centres and School Clinics)	

Laboratory Services - The Public Health Laboratory Service, Martin Street, Stafford (Tel: Stafford 377) - Director - Dr. E. H. Mackay-Scollay (Directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health).

Chemical Analysis - County Analyst, A. Houlbrooke Esq., M.Sc., F.R.I.C., Chemical Laboratory, County Buildings, Stafford (Tel: Stafford 578).

Hospitals - Those chiefly used are: The General, The Manor and St. John's Hospitals, Walsall; The Birmingham and Wolverhampton Hospitals, and the Cannock and Lichfield Hospitals. Admissions are usually arranged by General Practitioners.

Maternity Accommodation - Hospitalization, on medical grounds, is arranged by the patient's Doctor, and for unsuitable home conditions, after investigation by the Health Visitor, by the Hospital Management Committee of the area in which the applicant resides.

Small Pox - Treatment and hospitalization are arranged for through the Regional Hospital Board.

Veneral Disease - Clinics are held at the Manor Hospital, Walsall, for diagnostic, consultative and curative purposes.

Tuberculosis - Treatment is now arranged for through the Regional Hospital Board.

WATER.

The Aldridge Urban District is within the statutory area of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, and Mr. R.A. Robertson, B.Sc., M.Inst.C.E., Chief Engineer, has kindly let me have the following information for the year 1957:-

- (1) The supply to the Urban District has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.
- (2) The supply at present is chiefly derived from one Pumping Station (Bourne Vale Pumping Station) within, and six Pumping Stations outside, the boundaries of the Urban District. A proportion of water from surface sources is also supplied to parts of the district.

Regular and frequent samples of all the waters are examined both bacteriologically and chemically.

Samples of the water prior to treatment are also examined bacteriologically where possible.

During 1957, 144 samples were examined from Bourne Vale Pumping Station, all of which were satisfactory, 168 samples out of 171 from the reservoirs at Barr Beacon were free from coliform bacteria; 12 samples from the Waterman's house at Aldridge were all free from coliform bacteria.

The average chemical results for 1957 for the samples taken from the Waterman's house at Aldridge, were as follows:-

pH	7.5	parts	per	million.
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃)	134.	"	"	"
Chlorides (Cl)	24.5	"	"	"
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	Trace	"	"	"
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	.009	"	"	"
Oxidised Nitrogen (N)	6.8	"	"	"
Oxygen absorbed (3hr at 27°C)	.14	"	"	"
Temporary Hardness	129.	"	"	"
Permanent Hardness	97.	"	"	"
Total Hardness	226.	"	"	"
Total Solids	342.	"	"	"
Iron (Fe)	.04	"	"	"
Manganese (Mn)	Nil	"	"	"
Calcium (Ca)	83.3	"	"	"
Magnesium (Mg)	3.8	"	"	"
Zinc (Zn)	Nil	"	"	"
Poisonous Metals (Cu & Pb)	Nil	"	"	"
Free Cl	Nil	"	"	"

- (3) The waters are not liable to plumbo solvency, all 12 samples from the Waterman's house being free from any detectable quantity of lead.
- (4) Chlorination is practised, as a precautionary measure, at most of the Pumping Stations.

In cases of possible contamination in the event of burst or damaged mains, emptying reservoirs etc., emergency chlorination is performed. Special apparatus and staff are available for this work. New mains etc., are not brought into use until the water has been examined and pronounced satisfactory.

- (5) The number of houses with a piped water supply in the Urban District of Aldridge at 31st December, 1957, was 11,473, an increase of 924 from the previous year.

This information indicates that the quality and quantity of the water supply throughout the district has been most satisfactory.

There are still a few isolated wells in the less thickly populated parts of the district.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The refuse collection and disposal service were maintained at a satisfactory level during the year. Although costs and the number of houses to be dealt with increased, the service was carried out economically and efficiently under the supervision of the Chief Public Health Inspector. (Full details are embodied in the Chief Public Health Inspector's report).

HOUSING.

The number of houses erected during the year 1957:-

<u>Erected by Local Authority.</u>		<u>Otherwise.</u>	
<u>Erected</u>	<u>In course of</u>	<u>Erected</u>	<u>In course of</u>
<u>during</u>	<u>erection at</u>	<u>during</u>	<u>erection at</u>
<u>1957.</u>	<u>end of 1957.</u>	<u>1957.</u>	<u>end of 1957.</u>
180	416	820	434
TOTALS:	Erected during 1957	1000	
	In course of erection		
	at end of 1957	850	

Full particulars regarding inspections made, remedying of defects, action taken under Statutory Powers, overcrowding under the Housing Act 1936, will be found in the Chief Public Health Inspector's report.

SLUM CLEARANCE.

The following houses were demolished during the year:-

Aldridge Ward	8
Gt. Barr Ward	4
Pelsall Ward	<u>5</u>
TOTAL	<u>17</u>

SAMPLING OF MILK AND FOODS.

The County Sampling Officer has taken repeated samples of milk and foods, and these are examined and reported upon by the County Bacteriologist and Analyst. (See Chief Public Health Inspector's Report).

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Hospital Accommodation.

The arrangements for admissions of infectious cases are usually made by the General Practitioner in attendance.

SCHOOLS.

It was not considered necessary to close a school on account of infectious disease.

DIPHTHERIA.

No case of diphtheria was notified during 1957.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

This service is conducted by the County Authority, and the children are immunised by the County Medical Staff and General Practitioners.

Assuming the age groups of the population have not recently materially altered, the estimated age groups at 30th June 1957 (when the estimated total population was 39,100) were as follows:-

0-4. Age Group	3,850
5-14. Age Group	6,761

For the previous year these figures were 3,538 and 6,216.

The following information has been given by Dr. C.E. Jamison, the Area Medical Officer:-

The numbers of children immunised for the first time during the year 1957 were:-

Under 5 years of age	479
5-14 years of age	<u>78</u>
	<u>557</u>

The number of children re-immunised during the year 1957 was:-

All ages	776
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Immunisation state as at 31st December 1957:-

	Under 1.	1-4	5-9	10-14	TOTAL.
Immunised					
1953-1957	131	1441	1976	1424	4972
Immunised during					
1952 or before	-	-	658	1542	2200

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING
THE YEAR 1957.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total cases notified after correction.</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Diphtheria	-	-
Scarlet Fever	20	-
Enteric Fever, including Paratyphoid	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-
Pneumonia	33	7
Meningococcal Infection	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	-
Dysentery	3	-
Measles (excluding Rubella)	903	-
Whooping Cough	89	-
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	1	-
" " (Non-Paralytic)	2	-
Erysipelas	4	-
Food Poisoning	3	-
Acute Encephalitis (Infective)	-	-
" " (Post Infectious)	-	-

ANALYSIS OF THE NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS CASES (AFTER
CORRECTION) IN AGE GROUPS AND WARDS IS GIVEN BELOW:-

<u>AGE GROUPS.</u>	<u>Scar- let Fever.</u>	<u>Whoop- ing Cough.</u>	<u>Acute Polio- myelitis. Para. Non-Para.</u>	<u>Measles.</u>	<u>Diph- ther- ia.</u>	<u>Dy- sent- ery.</u>	<u>Mening: Infect- ion.</u>
0-1 year	-	10	-	55	-	1	-
1-2 years	-	8	-	66	-	-	-
2-3 "	1	11	-	101	-	-	-
3-4 "	1	14	-	118	-	-	-
4-5 "	2	8	1	115	-	-	-
5-9 "	15	34	2	430	-	1	-
10-14 "	1	3	-	12	-	-	-
15-24 "	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
25+	-	1	-	4	-	1	-
Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	20	89	1	903	-	3	-

WARDS.

Aldridge	3	23	-	-	231	-	-
Gt. Barr	6	13	-	-	184	2	-
Pelsall	3	27	-	-	194	-	-
Pheasey	3	3	-	1	119	1	-
Rushall	2	23	-	-	111	-	-
Streetly	3	-	1	1	61	-	-
TOTALS	20	89	1	2	903	3	-

<u>AGE GROUPS.</u>	<u>Pneumonia.</u>	<u>Erysipelas.</u>	<u>Puerperal Pyrexia.</u>	<u>Ophthalmia Neonatorum.</u>	<u>Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever.</u>	<u>Encephalitis.</u>	<u>Food Poisoning.</u>
0-4 years	7	-	-	2	-	-	-
5-14 "	5	-	-	-	-	-	1
15-44 "	10	-	-	-	-	-	2
45-64 "	9	3	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	33	4	-	2	-	-	3

WARDS.

Aldridge	19	2	-	-	-	-	-
Gt. Barr	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pelsall	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
Pheasey	3	-	-	1	-	-	-
Rushall	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Streetly	2	-	-	1	-	-	3
TOTALS	33	4	-	2	-	-	3

MEASLES EPIDEMIC.

The cases were distributed throughout the whole of the District and nearly half of them were in the 5-9 age group.

It is comforting to know that no death was attributed to this infectious disease.

No case of Puerperal Pyrexia was notified.

The following Table shows the attack rate of certain infectious diseases notified during the year 1957, per 1,000 of the population.

	<u>Cases.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
Scarlet Fever	20	0.51
Whooping Cough	69	2.27
Erysipelas	4	0.10
Pneumonia	33	0.84
Poliomyelitis	3	-
Measles	903	23.09

POLIOMYELITIS.

Three cases of poliomyelitis (1 paralytic and 2 non-paralytic) were notified - 2 from Streetly and 1 from Pheasey.

All were treated in Hospital.

Two suspected cases and 2 contacts were also investigated.

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION.

The children being vaccinated in Staffordshire are in the 1947-1956 age group.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Thirty cases of tuberculosis (see Table overleaf) were entered on the Register, 26 Pulmonary and 4 Non-Pulmonary.

Nine cases occurred in Aldridge, 3 in Rushall, 1 in Pelsall, 5 in Pheasey, 9 in Streetly and 3 in Great Barr.

Eight of these 30 cases were notified from Institutions and 10 cases were brought to my notice otherwise than by formal notification on Form "A" as follows:-

Inward Transfers	9
First notification after death	<u>1</u>
	<u>10</u>

The 9 cases transferred into the District came to reside as follows:-

Pheasey 1, Aldridge 3, Gt. Barr 1 and Streetly 4.

REVIEW OF T.B. REGISTER.

A quinquennial review of the cases who had been more than 5 years (in the case of pulmonary T.B) and more than 3 years (in the case of non-pulmonary T.B) on the register, was carried out in the Autumn of 1957.

The review was made possible by the most helpful co-operation of Dr. Jamison, Area Medical Officer, who allowed the Health Visitors to assist. Their services resulted in much useful information and are much appreciated.

Thanks are also due to the Chest Physicians, at several Chest Clinics, especially Dr. J. Macartney, at the Chest Clinic, The General Hospital, Walsall, for their valuable co-operation.

Other sources of information were also probed in order to make the review as detailed and accurate as possible.

It was ultimately possible to erase no less than 75 cases from the register, which, together with seven cases removed through normal channels made the total number of erasures 82, as follows:-

"Recovered"	53		
Outward Transfers	22		
Deaths	6		
"Not traced"	<u>1</u>		
	<u>82</u>		
<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	
Male. Female.		Male. Female.	
32 33		7 10	

There were 175 cases of tuberculosis on the register at 31/12/57 (excluding the cases resident in St. Margaret's Hospital, Great Barr) as follows:-

<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	
Male. Female.		Male. Female.	
98 66		3 8	

There were 18 cases of tuberculosis in St. Margaret's Hospital at 31/12/57 as follows:-

<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	
Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
15	2	1	-

The total number of cases on the register at the end of the year, for the whole of the District, including those in St. Margaret's Hospital, Gt. Barr, was therefore 193, made up as follows:-

<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	
Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
113	68	4	8

The notification of tuberculosis during the year was good. No action was necessary on account of wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

Four deaths from Pulmonary and no death from Non-Pulmonary tuberculosis were registered, giving death rates per 1,000 of the population of 0.10 and 0.00 respectively.

This is the lowest figure ever recorded for this district and compares with 0.28 the average for the decade 1947-1956. It will no doubt be of interest to note that the death rates from tuberculosis (pulmonary and non-pulmonary) for the district in the years 1912, 1913, and 1914 were 1.32, 1.07 and 1.90 respectively.

The following table shows the cases of Tuberculosis entered on the register and the number of deaths, according to the death returns, from this disease (classified according to age and sex) during the year 1957.

Age Periods.	<u>CASES ENTERED IN REGISTER.</u>				<u>DEATHS.</u>			
	<u>Pul.</u>		<u>Non-Pul.</u>		<u>Pul.</u>		<u>Non-Pul.</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-2 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2-5 "	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-10 "	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
10-15 "	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-20 "	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-25 "	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-35 "	2	2	1	2	-	-	-	-
35-45 "	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
45-55 "	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
55-65 "	2	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
65-75 "	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
75 & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	17	9	1	3	4	-	-	-

It was not found necessary to compulsorily remove any case of infectious disease to hospital.

INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC (ASIAN 'FLU).

Very many cases of influenza occurred in the District during the autumn months of 1957. As, however, influenza is not a notifiable disease, it is not possible to record the number of cases which occurred. As far as can be ascertained, the influenza was not of a serious nature.

I am grateful to the General Practitioners, who, on request, very kindly kept me informed of the approximate number of cases seen by them in the course of their medical practices.

FOOD POISONING.

Three cases of Staphylococcal food poisoning occurred in a family (parents and one child) in Streetly and were treated in Little Bromwich General Hospital. The most likely source of infection was boiled ham.

Five cases of suspected food poisoning were also fully investigated.

MORTUARY.

The Mortuary, at Anchor Road, Aldridge, has continued to be made use of by all concerned. The same part-time attendant is employed, and the over-all arrangements have proved satisfactory.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The extensions to the Disposal Works at Barns Lane, Rushall, were officially opened in September. These extensions, together with the existing works, are now capable of dealing with a dry weather flow of 550,600 gallons per day, and have been planned to facilitate future extensions to supersede the old works and to deal with a dry weather flow of 815,000 gallons per day.

It is pleasing to know that a similar modern sewage disposal works are being constructed to replace the inadequate and obsolete works situated at Chester Road, Aldridge.

PRIVIES.

The number of privies remaining throughout the district is 4; these are in situations where a public sewer is not available.

SMALL POX AND VACCINATION.

In July a case of suspected Small Pox was reported from Gt. Barr. After enquiry and consultation with a Small Pox Specialist (Dr. Martine) the case was diagnosed as Chicken Pox.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (SECTION 47).

No person was dealt with during the year 1957 under the provisions of the above Act.

Three persons, from Aldridge, Rushall and Streetly, were, however, after considerable difficulty, successfully removed to suitable accommodation.

CARAVANS.

The endeavour to control the use of caravans as dwellings continues to prove very difficult.

In addition to two licensed sites in the district there are a number of constant and recurring cases which demand considerable inspectorial time in checking, in an endeavour to exercise control.

It would appear the Council have insufficient legal powers to satisfactorily cope with this problem.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT SURVEYS.

A Mass Radiography Unit carried out a survey at B.R.D. Co Ltd., Aldridge, on 5/2/57. The following report gives details of this survey, which includes employees from several factories in the district.

<u>Males examined.</u>	<u>Females examined.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
525	158	683
Recalled for large film		23
Recalled for clinical examination		10
Referred to chest clinic or own Doctor		10

A survey was also carried out on Pheasey Estate from 1st-7th January, 1958. The figures given below, indicate that the number of persons availing themselves of this free, but very worth while service was disappointing, when compared with the numbers which have attended similar surveys in past years.

General Public.

<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
126	141	267
Recalled for large films		9
Recalled for clinical examination		Nil
Referred to chest clinic or own Doctor		7

St. Margaret's Hospital, Gt. Barr.

I understand from the Organising Secretary of the Mass Radiography Service, Birmingham, that, over the past 5 or 6 years, a Unit has carried out a survey at the above Hospital, at intervals of approximately 18 months.

In view of the fact that fewer people appear to be attending for X-ray, and that a Unit visits Walsall each week (see overleaf) an Annual visit to the District by a Mass Radiography Unit does not now seem to be so essential as in previous years.

Grateful thanks are due to the Medical Director, the Organising Secretary and all the staff for their close co-operation, efficient conduct of the survey and detailed reports.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT - WALSALL SESSIONS.

The above service, carried out at the Ambulance Depot, Hatherton Road, Walsall, attends weekly as follows:-

Every Monday (Bank Holidays excepted),

11.15 a.m.	to	12.30 p.m.
1.45 p.m.	to	3.0 p.m.
3.15 p.m.	to	4.30 p.m.

The cases X-rayed at these sessions are referred by General Practitioners, industrial Medical Officers etc. Members of the public are not examined unless they are so referred.

Experience has made it clear that the Unit is of greater value when the persons dealt with have been recommended as above.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The health of the population was very satisfactory during 1957.

The crude birth rate (19.84) was considerably higher than the average for the previous 5 years (14.94).

The crude death rate (6.06) was also lower than the average for the last 5 years (7.40). For the tenth consecutive year no death resulted from pregnancy, childbirth or abortion. This is most gratifying.

The Infantile Death Rate (16.75) was considerably lower (in 1956 it was 33.84) and compares with 23.0 for the whole of England and Wales, which is the lowest ever recorded.

Four tuberculous persons were re-housed during the year. The co-operation between the Housing and the Health Committees in the problem of re-housing tuberculous persons continues, as in the past.

The work of the Health Department has been efficiently conducted during the year. The work of Slum Clearance has been progressive and the inspection of meat has been maintained. These two sections of the Public Health service involve considerable inspectorial time. A constant endeavour is made to deal with complaints and other routine work as fully as possible.

All the staff from the Chief Public Health Inspector downwards have conducted their respective duties conscientiously and willingly.

The Chief Public Health Inspector's thorough working knowledge of the district and its requirements is of great value.

My long association with Mr. Boocock, Chief Public Health Inspector, is, after 31 years, now concluded, and I feel I may be allowed the liberty, in this report, to pay tribute to him. He has proved himself to be most conscientious and meticulous in his work, which he carried out without fear or favour, at all times setting a good example to the remainder of the Public Health Department staff.

I sincerely trust he may be spared to enjoy the many years of leisurely retirement he has so worthily earned.

I again desire to thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, and also fellow Officers and Council staff, for the co-operation, consideration and courtesy received in the course of my duties during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

V. E. MILNE,

Medical Officer of Health.

CERTAIN VITAL STATISTICS FOR ALL ENGLAND
AND WALES FOR 1957.

Live Births/Deaths -- Annual rates per 1,000 population.
Still Births -- Rate per 1,000 total live and still births.
Infant Mortality -- Rate per 1,000 related live births.

Birth Rate -- 16.1 - 0.5 higher than that for 1956 - the highest since 1949. Illegitimacy was 46 per 1,000 live births or 1 per 1,000 below the average for the preceeding 5 years.

Still Births -- the provisional still birth rate was 22.4 per 1,000 live and still births compared with 22.9 for 1956.

Death Rate -- 11.5 - 0.2 lower than for 1956.

Infant Mortality -- (under 1 year of age) - 23.0 - the lowest ever recorded in this country. This was 0.7 below that for 1956 - the previous lowest.

The estimated total population for England and Wales for the year 1957 was 45,043,000, and the estimated home population was 44,907,000.

The total estimated population for 1957 was 222,000 over the estimate for 1956.

TOTAL DEATHS.

Causes of Death in the Aldridge U.D. (Year 1957).

CAUSES OF DEATH.	M.	F.
ALL CAUSES:	136	101
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	4	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic Disease	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other Infective Parasitic Diseases	1	-
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	3	4
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	3	-
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	3
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	2
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	5	9
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	1
16. Diabetes	1	1
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	12	18
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	31	11
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	5	5
20. Other Heart Disease	17	15
21. Other Circulatory Diseases	8	1
22. Influenza	5	-
23. Pneumonia	6	1
24. Bronchitis	8	1
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	-
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	-
27. Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	-	-
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	-
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-
31. Congenital Malformations	3	2
32. Other Defined and Ill-defined diseases	13	21
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	1
34. All Other Accidents	4	4
35. Suicide	1	1
36. Homicide and Operations of War	-	-

<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Total	7	6
Legitimate	7	6
Illegitimate	-	-

<u>Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age.</u>		
Total	6	5
Legitimate	6	5
Illegitimate	-	-

<u>Live Births.</u>		
Total	390	386
Legitimate	375	383
Illegitimate	15	3

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1957.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
ALDRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Thirtieth Annual Report for the year 1957.

I would respectfully express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their constant support, and to the Medical Officer of Health, Clerk of the Council and Surveyor for the help and co-operation received from them.

WATER SUPPLY.

The whole of the district is within the statutory area of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, and the supply of water has been maintained in a satisfactory state of quality and quantity throughout the year.

A few cases exist where the only water supply obtainable is from wells.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The closet accommodation throughout the district is of the water carriage system, with water closets provided for each individual house.

There still remains, however, some pail closets and privies in such areas where sewers are not available.

Number of privies remaining in the district	4
Number of pails remaining in the district	51

The following details are supplied by the courtesy of Mr. J. Mason, the Council's Engineer and Surveyor:-

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE.

1. Barns Lane Sewage Works Extension - officially opened 4th September 1957.

Marked improvement in conditions with return of fish (sticklebacks) and normal small animal life.

2. Water bay and other minor items constructed at Streetly Sewage Disposal Works to improve effluent.

Brook course cleared from discharge point to Mill Pool.

NUMBER OF HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

(a)	By Local Authority	180
(b)	By Other Authority	1
(c)	By Private Enterprise	819

NUMBER OF HOUSES IN COURSE OF ERECTION AT THE END OF
THE YEAR.

(a)	By Local Authority	416
(b)	By Other Authority	-
(c)	By Private Enterprise	434

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION WORK.

(April 1st, 1957 to March 31st, 1958).

Rats and Mice Destruction Work has been carried out throughout the year in close co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Infestation Control Division.

One man is employed part-time as rodent operative. The time spent on rodent work during the year has been equivalent to 68% of the full working time of one man.

PREMISES INSPECTED.

(To confirm infestation or otherwise).

	Totals Inspected	Found Infested.	Found Non-Infested.
Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	144	122	22
Business Premises	29	25	4
Council Premises	7	4	3
	180	151	29

VISITS TO CARRY OUT TREATMENT OF
INFESTED PREMISES.

Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	1026
Business Premises	257
Council Premises	173
	1456

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

With the coming into operation of the full provisions of the Clean Air Act 1956, at 1st June 1958, with the relevant regulations and/or orders made thereunder, a considerable increase of work in this field will occur.

This will demand considerable inspectorial time, to keep the work up to date without prejudice to other operations of the department.

REPORT ON THE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF
HOUSEHOLD REFUSE.

(1st April 1957, to 31st March 1958).

I have the honour to submit herewith my report on the work of collection and disposal of household refuse for the year 1957-58.

STAFF.

The estimate in the early part of the year provided for the employment of a personnel of 22.

However, actual working hours signified the attendance of men at work amounting to an equivalent of 19 men each week throughout the year. It will therefore be seen that there was a shortage of staff actually at work equivalent of 3 men each week.

ABSENTEEISM.

Loss of one man working hours through absenteeism has been as follows:-

One man hours lost by workers certified sick	2005	or 4.6%	of possible working hours.
One man hours lost through causes other than certified sickness	631	or 1.5%	Do.
TOTAL ONE MAN HOURS LOST	2636	or 6.1%	Do.

BONUS.

The amount of bonus paid to men employed in the house refuse collection service is as follows:-

Incentive Bonus	£832. 12. 7.
Merit Bonus	£386. 10. 1.
TOTAL BONUS	£1719. 2. 8.

VEHICLES EMPLOYED.

One 13 cu.yd S & D Freighter Dust Cart	No. 4.
One 13 cu.yd S & D Freighter Dust Cart	No. 5.
One Fore and Aft S & D Tipping Dust Cart	No. 6.
One Fore and Aft S & D Tipping Dust Cart	No. 7.

DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.

Tipping has been carried out at Stubbers Green, Aldridge, on the Council's own land.

PROGRESS OF WORK.

The average period of collection in the districts, carried out by the respective vehicles is as follows:-

Side Loaders:-

S & D No. 4	7.4 Days
S & D No. 5	8.1 Days

Fore and Aft Tippers:-

S & D No. 6	8.7 Days
S & D No. 7	<u>7.7 Days</u>

AVERAGE - 8 Days

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS.

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. Area (statute acres) - land and inland water | 9,284 acres |
| 2. Population at 30th June 1957 (Registrar General's Estimate) | 39,100 persons |
| 3. Total refuse collections (tons) - estimated | 12,351 tons |
| 4. Weight (cwts) per 1,000 population per day (365 days to year) | 18 cwts |
| 5. Number of premises from which refuse is collected | 12,309 premises |
| 6. Endeavour is made to ensure weekly collections.
Average collection attained over year | 8 days |
| 7. Average haul, single journey to final disposal point | 3.5 miles |
| 8. Kerbside collection expressed as estimated percentage of total collection | 100% |
| 9. Total refuse disposed of (of which - tons were disposed of for other local authorities) | 12,351 tons |
| 10. Methods of disposal (salvage excluded) - semi-controlled tipping. | 100% |

COST STATEMENT SUMMARY 1957-58.

Particulars.	Collection.	Disposal.	Totals.	Percentage of total gross expenditure.
	£	£	£	%
1. GROSS EXPENDITURE:				
1. Labour	8530	19	8549	52
2. Transport	3751	847	4598	28
3. Plant, equipment, land and buildings.	2289	219	508	15
4. Other items	536	256	792	5
5. Total gross expenditure	15106	1341	16447	100
2. GROSS INCOME:	Nil	Nil	Nil	-
3. NET COST:	15106	1341	16447	-
4. Capital expenditure met from revenue (included above)	Nil	Nil	Nil	-
UNIT COSTS:	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
5. Gross cost per ton, labour only	13.10	- -	13.10	
6. Gross cost per ton, transport only	6. 1	1. 5	7. 6	
7. Net cost (all expenditure) per ton	24. 6	2. 2	26. 8	
	£	£	£	
8. Net cost per 1,000 population	386	34	420	
9. Net cost per 1,000 premises	1227	109	1336	

VISITS MADE - PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS.

Inspections made re Housing Defects	
Informal...	535
Public Health Act...	144
Housing Act ...	20
Inspections made re Demolition...	217
Inspections made re Clearance ...	213
Inspections made re Housing Act:	
Certificate of Disrepair...	22
Closure ...	3
Number of Visits re:	
Overcrowding...	5
Food Shops. ...	102
Food Hygiene...	14
Cafe-Restaurant ...	6
Milk Shops. ...	19
Ice Cream Premises. ...	23
Bakehouses. ...	2
Dairies ...	13
Factory Canteen ...	1
Shops (Shops Act)...	6
Factories.. ...	43
Workshops.. ...	17
Outworkers. ...	9
Drainage...	311
Closet Accommodation...	102
Pail Closets...	97
Cesspool...	3
Dustbins...	1120
Refuse - House. ...	163
Vermin. ...	41
Animals - improperly kept..	20
Water Supply...	3
Accumulations..	86
Tents, Vans, Sheds. ...	777
Smoke Batement. ...	36
Meat Inspections...	424
Unsound Foods..	13
Slaughterhouses ...	2
Rats and Mice (By Public Health Inspectors) ..	122
Miscellaneous..	200
Aged Persons...	1
Infectious Disease:-	
Inquiries ...	100
Disinfection - Clothing..	1
Mortuary...	1
TOTAL VISITS	5037

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936 (Section 75(1)).

Dustbins supplied by Council in default	28
Dustbins supplied by occupiers and/or owner voluntarily	317

NOTICES DEALT WITH DURING THE YEAR.

	Notices Served.	Notices Completed.	Other notices Superseded or Rescinded.
Informal	160	199	38
Statutory	335	296	10
	<u>495</u>	<u>495</u>	<u>48</u>

FACTORIES ACT.

Number of Factories on Register (including Bakehouses)	111
Number of Visits made - Factories	43
Bakehouses	2
Outworker's Premises	<u>9</u>
	<u>54</u>

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION IN FACTORIES - DEALT WITH.

Screening	1
Found defective	1
Want of cleanliness	2
Labelling	<u>1</u>
	<u>5</u>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Primary visits and inquiries	100
Disinfection of clothing	1

COMPLAINTS.

Complaints received from the public at the Health Department and dealt with, including all manner of subjects, drainage, house defects, nuisances etc.

622

NATURE AND NUMBER OF STRUCTURAL DEFECTS DEALT WITH IN HOUSES: TOGETHER WITH NUISANCES AND OTHER MATTERS.

House Defects:

House roofs.	30
Floors, boards and skirting boards.. . . .	14
joists.. . . .	1
paving (interior).. . . .	1
paving, quarries	4
Walls, plaster.. . . .	19
Ceilings, plaster...	20
Windows, sashcords.. . . .	7
frames.....	15
pointing around	3
puttywork.. . . .	9
Doors, frames...	4
fastenings...	1
Doors...	4
Stairs, treads and risers...	2
panelling...	1
Firegrates, hearth.. . . .	1
brickwork...	1
fireback boiler.	3
Firegrates.. . . .	5
Oven, defective.	1
Sinks, sink waste pipe.. . . .	6
fender and channel...	1
service pipe.	1
Chimney, brickwork.. . . .	6
pointing...	3
pots...	3
flues.. . . .	3

Exterior House Wall, brickwork.	9
pointing..	11
verge fillet..	1
Wash boiler	1
Dampness..	5

Closet Accommodation Defects:

Water closet, choked pan	1
structure.	2
cisterns..	3
pedestals.	4
seats.	6
flushing apparatus absent.	2
flushing apparatus defective..	3
joints	2
wash hand basin...	1

Tents, Vans and Sheds:

Structures..	4
Sink waste drainage.	10

Drainage Defects:

Gully fender	1
Gully bed...	2
Drains defective	2
choked	13
Inspection chamber covers...	6
Gully grids.	1
Ventilation pipes...	1
Cesspool	1
Drains overflowing..	2
Eavesgutters	14
Downspouts..	3

Miscellaneous:

Animals improperly kept.....	1
Offensive accumulations.	1
Nuisances...	3
Water service pipe..	1

Food Premises:

Unsatisfactory state of cleanliness.	1
Wall plaster	1
Ceiling plaster.	1

FOOD PREMISES.
INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF:

Inspections made:

Milk Shops..	19
Food Shops..	102
Ice Cream Shops.	23
Re Unsound Food.	13
Cafe-Restaurant.	6
Factory Canteen.	1

Visits made for supervision of food premises 164

An endeavour is being made to keep in contact with food premises.

UN SOUND FOODS.

The following goods were inspected and found unfit for human consumption:-

	No.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Bovine Liver and portions	19	375	12
Lungs and Trachea	41	377	-
Diaphragm Portion	1	-	3
Heart	4	12	-
Head and Tongue	21	501	-
Tongue	1	5	-
Mesentery	15	66	-
Fat	-	1	12
Carcase and organs	1	480	-
Pleura	1	-	2
Spleen	1	4	-
Neck and Brisket	1	15	-
Flank	1	10	-
Skirt	2	4	-
Spinal Cord	1	-	2
Forequarters	2	305	-
Pigs Lungs	22	28	12
Spleen	1	-	6
Liver	12	34	-
Heads	8	70	-
Pork Ribs	-	2	-
Sheeꝑs Livers and Portions	42	139	8
Lungs	448	496	8
Hearts	16	4	8
	661	2932	9

	Tins.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Chopped Pork	2	8	-
Corned Beef	1	6	-
Apricots	6	11	4
Apricot Halves	1	1	14
Pineapple Slices	2	3	12
Boneless Ham	1	11	14
Peaches	1	1	13
Kippers	1 Box	7	-
	14 Tins		
	1 Box	51	9

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR PART.

	Cattle Excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Deer.
Number killed	227	67	13	1745	301	1
Number inspected	227	67	13	1745	301	1

All diseases except
Tuberculosis and
Cysticerci

Whole carcasses
condemned

-	-	-	-	-	-
---	---	---	---	---	---

Carcasses of which
some part or organ
was condemned

64	16	-	452	27	-
----	----	---	-----	----	---

Percentage of the
number inspected
affected with
disease other than
tuberculosis and
cysticerci

28.19%	23.88%	-	25.9%	8.97%	-
--------	--------	---	-------	-------	---

Tuberculosis only:

Whole carcasses
condemned

1	-	-	-	-	-
---	---	---	---	---	---

Carcasses of which
some part or organ
was condemned

29	14	-	-	11	-
----	----	---	---	----	---

Percentage of the
number inspected
affected with
tuberculosis

12.77%	20.89%	-	-	3.65%	-
--------	--------	---	---	-------	---

Cysticercosis:

Carcasses of which
some part or organ
was condemned

5	-	-	-	-	-
---	---	---	---	---	---

Carcasses submitted
to treatment by
refrigeration

5	-	-	-	-	-
---	---	---	---	---	---

Generalised and
totally condemned

-	-	-	-	-	-
---	---	---	---	---	---

Total cases of cysticercus bovis	-	5
Total bovines inspected	-	294
Incidence of cysticercus bovis	-	1.7%

32 Bullocks inspected	-	2 cases of cysticercus bovis - heart
195 Heifers inspected	-	3 " " " " (2 heart 1 mesentery)
67 Cows inspected	-	Nil cases of cysticercus bovis.

DETAILS OF SAMPLES TAKEN IN ALDRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT
UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955, DURING 1957.

The following records of samples of milk and other foods, taken in the district have been supplied by the courtesy of Dr.G.Ramage, County Medical Officer of Health, Staffordshire County Council.

MILK:

Pasteurised	26
Pasteurised Tuberculin Tested	24
Channel Islands (All grades)	11
Sterilised	19
Total	<u>80</u>

All milk samples were genuine.

GENERAL FOODS AND DRUGS.

Aspirin Tablets, B.P.	Ice Cream.
Butter	Lard
Blanomange Powder	Licorice and Menthol Tablets
Blended Honey	Mint in Vinegar
Blackcurrant Drops	Margarine
Bilberries in Syrup	Mixed Cut Peel
Custard Powder	Meat Pie
Cream of Chicken Soup	Mixed Fruit
Chocolate Cake Mix	Megg
Currants	Oatmeal
Coffee	Peaches in Syrup
Chocolate Wholemeal Biscuits	Pears in Syrup
Cheese	Pancake Batter Mix
Cheese Food	Peeled Tomatoes
Cheese Spread	Pineapple Cubes in Syrup
Chocolate Biscuits	Pilchards in Tomato
Cream of Salmon	Pork Luncheon Meat
Cake Chocolate	Sausages, Pork
Crumbs	do Beef
Cooked Butter Beans	do Pork & Beef
Cochineal Colouring	Sausage Meat
Dressed Crab	Salad Cream
Devon Cream Buns	Savory Relish
Devon Cream Slices	Seidlitz Powders
Dried Peas	Strawberry Jam
Evaporated Milk	Strawberries (Tinned)
Flour (Plain and S.R)	Stewed Steak and Gravy
Faggotts	Steak Pudding
Fruit Sauce	Sild in Tomato
Flaked Rice	Shortening
Grapefruit in Syrup	Sweet Corn Cobs
Gooseberry Conserve	Soups
Garden Peas	Soupmix
Garden Beans	Quick Oats
Glace Cherries	Tea
Gin	Table Jellies
Ginger Cake	White Cake Mixture
Gravy Colouring	White Pepper
Halibut Liver Oil, B.P.	Whisky

TOTAL - 115 samples.

Incorrect Samples

Mint in Vinegar	- Ingredients stated in wrong order, label amended.
Pork Sausage	- Contained undeclared Preservative, caution.
Devon Cream Buns)	- Contained Imitation Cream.
Devon Cream Slices)	Proceedings commenced, adjourned sine die.

MILK SAMPLES COLLECTED IN THE ALDRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT FOR

BACTERIOLOGICAL AND BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION DURING 1957.

Designation.	No. Submitted.	CLEANLINESS		PHOSPHATASE		TURBIDITY.		Biological Submitted.	Found to contain Tubercle Bacilli.
		Satis.	Unsatis.	Pass.	Fail.	Pass.	Fail.		
TUBERCULIN TESTED	7	5	2	-	-	-	-	3	-
TUBERCULIN TESTED (PASTEURISED)	92	84	1	92	-	-	-	-	-
PASTEURISED	70	64	1	70	-	-	-	-	-
STERILISED	54	-	-	-	-	54	-	-	-
TOTALS	223	153	4	162	-	54	-	3	-

* The three samples submitted to the Biological Test were included in the number submitted to the cleanliness test.

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health Acts or Housing Acts	487
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	2787
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	80
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose	272
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	16
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	471
(5) Houses on which undertakings were given and completed	Nil
Houses on which undertakings were given and have not been completed	1

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notice:

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	30
---	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936:	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	22
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
(a) By Owners	17
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11, 13 and 25 of the
Housing Act 1936:

(1) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	4
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	7
(3) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Clearance Order	Nil

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

4. Housing Act 1936, Part IV - Overcrowding:

(a) (1) Number of dwelling houses recorded overcrowded at the end of the year	1
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	1
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	8
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	Nil
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	Nil

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

U. BOOCOCK

Chief Public Health Inspector.

